

# Learning Classical Armenian (*grabar*) on the Internet



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**The Internet offers wonderful resources for the study of Classical Armenian (*grabar*), all free:**

1. A college-level course in *grabar* is online at the website of the University of Texas at Austin. Available using both the Armenian alphabet and Romanization, this course [[Classical Armenian Online](#)] was prepared by John A. C. Greppin, Todd B. Krause, and Jonathan Slocum. Material from Armenian historical sources is used in the exercises.

The excellent course above also may be accessed in a variety of languages other than English, using Google Translate. Despite the machine translation, the material still can be used to advantage.

**Classical Armenian Online** at the University of Texas, in:

[Arabic](#)

[Italian](#)

[Turkish](#)

[Armenian](#)

[Persian](#)

[French](#)

[Polish](#)

[Georgian](#)

[Portuguese](#)

[German](#)

[Romanian](#)

[Greek](#)

[Russian](#)

[Hebrew](#)

[Spanish](#)

[Chinese](#)

[Japanese](#)

[Korean](#)

[Mongolian](#)

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2. Thanks to Google Books and others, the following precious *grabar* materials are available as free pdf downloads.

Originally published in Venice in 1879 with the title *New Dictionary Armenian-English*, Matthias Bedrosian's *Classical Armenian to English Dictionary* is a standard work which has been reprinted numerous times. It is essential for English-speakers learning *grabar*. This edition is bookmarked by letter of the

alphabet. Available at Internet Archive in a variety of formats: [Bedrosian's Classical Armenian to English Dictionary](#).

***Astuatsashunch' matean hin ew nor ktakaranats', hamematut'eamb ebrayakan ew yunakan bnagrats' [Old and New Testaments of the Bible, compared with the Hebrew and Greek texts]*** (Constantinople, 1895). This is the principal edition of the *grabar* Bible. The Bible was translated into Armenian in the early 5th century and contains some of the most beautiful *grabar* imaginable. With an English translation by your side, reading passages from the Classical Armenian Bible is an excellent way to learn the language. This is the text of the Old Testament (Genesis through Malachi), in 944 pdf pages, bookmarked by book and chapter: [Hin ktakaran/Old Testament](#).

The following editions are intended as study aids for English-speakers wanting to learn Classical Armenian. The download contains the Classical Armenian text of the book, either from the edition of Constantinople, 1895, or from the Zohrab Bible (Venice, 1805) in its revised edition, edited by the great philologist Tigran A. Aivazian (Erevan, 2016). An attachment to the document is the English translation either from the *Oxford Annotated Bible*, Revised Standard Edition (New York, 1962), or from the *Oxford Annotated Apocrypha*. The English translations are searchable. Both parts are bookmarked by chapter.

[Ծնունդը.\[Genesis\]](#).

[Գիրք Տովթիթայ.\[The Book of Tobit\]](#), pp. 288-293 from the Zohrab Bible (Venice, 1805) in its revised edition (Erevan, 2016), in 7 bookmarked pdf pages. An attachment to the document contains searchable English translations of this book by A. D. Neubauer (Oxford, 1878) made from Aramaic, Hebrew, and Latin. The setting for this story is Nineveh, Mesopotamia in the 8th century B.C., although today *Tobit* is regarded as a writing of the period B.C. 225-175. Invaluable vocabulary and information about magic, angels, and marital fidelity.

[Գիրք Շուշանայ.\[The Book of Susanna\]](#), pp. 514-516 from the Zohrab Bible (Venice, 1805) in its revised edition (Erevan, 2016), in 4 pdf pages. An attachment to the document contains a searchable English translation from the *Oxford Annotated Apocrypha*. This is an ancient detective story, which appears attached to the beginning of the Book of Daniel. It is not part of the Hebrew Bible. In this episode, the beautiful Susanna has been condemned to death. She had refused the unwanted sexual advances of two dishonest officials and, for revenge, they accused her of having sex with someone other than her husband. They said that they had actually seen her with him in the garden, under a tree. Adultery was a capital offense at the time, and the officials were believed instead of Susanna. As she is being led away to execution, the young Daniel steps forth and stops the proceedings. He serves as defense attorney and questions each man separately. What kind of tree was it that they had observed in the garden? Each mentions a different tree (one enormous, one tiny), and thereby Daniel uncovers their duplicity.

[Բել և Դիշապը.\[Bel and the Dragon\]](#), pp. 525-526 from the Zohrab Bible (Venice, 1805) in its revised edition (Erevan, 2016), in 2 bookmarked pdf pages. This story, which has great folkloric interest, appears as chapter 14 in the Book of Daniel. It is not part of the Hebrew Bible. An attachment to the document contains a searchable English translation from the *Oxford Annotated Apocrypha*.

[Գիրք Յուդիթայ.\[The Book of Judith\]](#), pp. 280-288 from the Zohrab Bible (Venice, 1805) in its revised edition (Erevan, 2016), in 10 bookmarked pdf pages. In this story, during an invasion, the beautiful Judith performs an astonishing deed to encourage her despairing people: she seduces, inebriates, and beheads Holofernes, the invading general, in his own tent. Then she takes his head

back to her people, displays it, and rouses the defending army. An attachment to the document contains a bookmarked and searchable English translation from the *Oxford Annotated Apocrypha*. According to the Wikipedia entry (under Book of Judith), despite the mention of "Assyria" and "Nebuchadnezzar," this book is not real history but is, instead, a historical novel of the 2nd to 1st century B.C. "In the case of the Book of Judith, Biblical scholar Gabriele Boccaccini, identified Nebuchadnezzar with Tigranes the Great (140-56 BCE), a powerful King of Armenia who, according to Josephus and Strabo, conquered all of the lands identified by the Biblical author in Judith. Under this theory, the story, although fictional, would be set in the time of Queen Salome Alexandra, the only Jewish regnant queen, who reigned over Judea from 76 to 67 B.C." Invaluable Classical Armenian vocabulary.

## Gems from the Bible Series

These are study aids for those wanting to learn Classical Armenian irrespective of native language. These selections from the Old Testament include passages of historical, folklorical, and literary value, as well as those containing beautiful phraseology and important vocabulary. The format for the passages shows the *grabar* text on the left, and a translation on the right. The default translation language is English. However, there is a Google Translate box at the upper right of that screen which allows translation of the English into many languages.

[Genesis through Deuteronomy](#)

[Joshua through Esther](#)

[Job through the Song of Songs](#)

[The Prophets](#)

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3. Thanks to Jost Gippert and others, the Zohrab Bible (Venice, 1805), is available for reading online at the University of Frankfurt's TITUS site:

[Classical Armenian Old Testament Online](#)

[Classical Armenian New Testament Online](#)

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Available at Internet Archive for reading online and/or downloading in various formats:

[Ankanon girk' Hin Ktakaranats' \[Uncanonical Books of the Old Testament\]](#), Sargis Hovsep'eants', editor (Venice, 1896), in 457 pdf pages. This is the available Classical Armenian text.

[Uncanonical Writings of the Old Testament](#), translated into English from Classical Armenian manuscripts, by Rev. J. Issaverdens (Venice, 1907), in 491 pdf pages.

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## Additional Downloads:

[An Introduction to Classical Armenian](#), by Robert W. Thomson (Delmar, N.Y., 1989; reprint of 1975 edition), in 268 searchable and bookmarked pdf pages. An excellent textbook in 17 lessons, with texts drawn from 5th-century historical sources, and vocabulary (Armenian-English and English-Armenian).

[The Story of Ahikar](#), from the Aramaic, Syriac, Arabic, Armenian, Ethiopic, Old Turkish, Greek and Slavonic Versions, by F. C. Conybeare, J. Rendel Harris, and Agnes Smith Lewis (Glasgow, 1898). English translations and texts of this wonderful tale in the aforementioned languages. For students of Classical Armenian, this is an excellent example of the pure *grabar* of the early 5th century. Containing some of the most beautiful *grabar* outside the Bible, *The Story of Ahikar* was one of the earliest works translated into Armenian, possibly the work of Mesrop or Sahak. With the Classical Armenian text and English translation in one book, it is a terrific learning tool.

[Learn Classical Armenian!](#) Beyond Miloyan's magnificent online *grabar* lessons include grammar and illustrative phrases in *grabar*, Western Armenian, and English.

Bilingual editions (*grabar*/English) of many Classical Armenian historical sources and other works are available for sale at the excellent [Sophene Books](#).

[Armenian Resource Guides at Internet Archive](#)

